

April 10, 2014
Middlesex Municipal Building

The Regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Public Library and called to order by Vice Chairman Dan Gitler:

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 16, 2013”

Members:	Jason Bond (late) Dan Gitler Bob Ferris (absent) Jim Gorman (absent) Frank Ryan
Alternates:	Betty Platten (Alt. #1) (absent) Sean Johnson (Alt. #2)
Liaison Secretary	Sean Kaplan (absent) Linda Chismar

Vice Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there was no public participation, Vice Chairman Gitler closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the March 13, 2014 Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gitler and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to accept the March, 2014 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Communications

- A. 521 Giles Avenue – Dan Gitler will look at the tree in the front of this property and report back.

Work Agenda

1. 419 Chestnut Street – Sean Johnson reported that this Norway maple can be pruned.
2. 316 Raphael Street – Sean Johnson reported that this white pine should be pruned.
3. 408 Walnut Street – Frank Ryan will look to see if the oak tree next to the driveway needs trimming.

4. 277 Anthony Avenue – Dan Gitler reported that the four small trees along the side of this house should be removed.
5. 409 A Street – Sean Johnson reported that this tree should be pruned.
6. 218 Appian Way – Dan Gitler reported that the Norway maple appears healthy, and they will recheck again at a later date.
7. 219 D Street – Frank Ryan will look at this tree and evaluate.
8. 307 – 311 Greene Avenue – Frank Ryan will meet with the Victor Crowell Park Committee and discuss these trees and bring back to the Commission.
9. 15 Edward Avenue – Jason Bond will recheck the Pin Oak when the leaves have bloomed in the spring and it may need trimming.
10. 400 – 500 Block of Melrose Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the trees that are lifting the sidewalks in this area.
11. Trees on Hawthorne hanging over the street – These trees have been marked by the Fire Department and they will be handled by them.

Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – This was discussed briefly, but will be tabled until the Council Liaison is at meeting to discuss. The Commission did discuss a \$500.00 charge should be imposed along with a \$250.00 charge to replace the tree.
- (B) Update on request to plant trees on Hazelwood Road between Orchard Road & Vesper – Dan Gitler provided a form letter to be distributed in this area to request residents call for a tree to be planted. Copies will be handed out to Commissioners at the May, 2014 Meeting.
- (C) Update from PSE&G about planting on Greenbrook Road – Commission confirmed that we should have PSE&G plant trees behind the sidewalks on Greenbrook Road. Linda will contact PSE&G and advice.
- (D) Update on New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign/April 12 – East Egg Hunt – The Commission will be providing seedlings to be distributed to residents at the Easter Egg Hunt. There are variety of these seedlings which include silky dogwood, regular dogwoods, red oaks and black gum. The High School Environmental Club will be there to help, along with possibly the Girl Scouts.
- (E) Commission would like Sean Kaplan or Bob Teutsch to advise Shade Tree on the status of the removal of branches for the new fire trucks.

New Business

- (A) Update on Spring Tree Planting – Dan Gitler provided proposal for commission to review. Minor changes will be made and quotes for Spring/Fall will be provided at the next meeting.
- (B) Marking of Trees by Commissioners – Commission agreed that tape and paint will be provided to Commissioners so that they mark the trees with red tape for pruning and paint for removals.
- (C) Arbor Day Proclamation – April 25, 2014
- (D) Linda has contacted Jeff Boltzer about planting the Arbor Day Tree at the playground at Watchung School. Mr. Boltzer will come out on Monday and confirm the location with Mrs. Diskin.

Vice Chairman Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
MAY 8, 2014 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

